

Restriction Requirement Response
Serial No. 09/686,516
Docket No. BL055-GN004

REMARKS

Instant Office Action

The October 19 Office action indicates that pending claims, 1-74, are subject to a restriction or election requirement. The Office action indicates that Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

As indicated on Page 2 of the October 19 Office action, it is alleged that the application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct inventions: (1) Species I directed to the details of how to compute a relevance score of a message to at least one topic (claims 6-11, 42-47); (2) Species II directed to the details of how to compute the opinion rating of a message (claims 2, 13-14, 49-50); (3) Species III directed to the details of how market data, based on tracked pseudonyms and community mood measurement, is analyzed to identify correlations or trends for future market events; (4) Species IV directed toward the details of how tracked pseudonyms are used to predict events external to the electronic discussion forums by classifying each pseudonym and assigning a score based on the classification (claims 25-33, 61-69); and, (5) Species V directed to the details of tracking the posting activity of a plurality of posters to identify opinion leaders (claims 34-38, 70-74). Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's description of claims 1, 3-5, 12, 39-41, and 48 as generic.

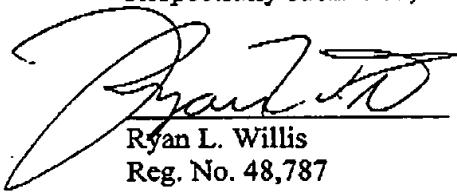
Applicants elect Species II and wish to prosecute claims 1-5, 12-14, 39-41, and 48-50, most closely corresponding and relating to Species II, without traverse.

If the Examiner holds that the instant election is proper and no generic claim is allowable, cancellation of claims directed to non-elected species will follow. Favorable consideration of the elected claims is respectfully requested.

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In the event that the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response,
please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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